

Cobots and its Adoption in Industry 5.0

Nikhil Soi¹, Asmita Singh Bisen²

¹Professor, Hult International Business School, London, UK

²Faculty Program Coordinator, Hult International Business School, London, UK

Abstract

With its potential to revolutionize manufacturing, Industry 5.0's use of collaborative robots, or cobots, is a subject of increasing interest. The goal of this study report is to present a thorough understanding of Industry 5.0's acceptance and application of cobots. The socio-technical aspects of cobot acceptance in manufacturing, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of their adoption and the financial needs for incorporating them into the workflow, will all be covered in this article. The consequences of human-robot collaboration, the requirement for specialized training, and the possibility of producing more personalized and customized goods in the Industry 5.0 age will also be covered in this paper. As it highlights the potential for increasing productivity and efficiency through the employment of cobots and other cutting-edge technologies, the research will also address the difficulties with security, cost, and upgrading production lines.

Keywords: Human-Robot Collaboration; Cobots; Industry 5.0

1. Introduction

Industry 5.0 is the next phase of industrial revolution that emphasizes human-robot collaboration and the well-being of workers. It aims to combine the creativity and craftsmanship of humans with the efficiency of robots, particularly collaborative robots or "cobots." They are designed to work alongside humans, increasing efficiency and safety in manufacturing processes. Unlike traditional robots, they involve human intervention to optimize their efficacy on the factory floor. They are equipped with enhanced sensor and vision technologies to enable safe interaction with humans. Industry 5.0 seeks to create a human-centric approach to manufacturing, where humans and machines work together to improve productivity and ensure sustainable production processes. This transition from Industry 4.0 to Industry 5.0 is significant as it places greater emphasis on the human role in the modernized manufacturing process, fostering innovation, and reinforcing sustainability plans [1][2][3][4]

The significance of cobots in the context of industrial automation lies in their ability to enhance productivity, increase employment opportunities, and transition employees from monotonous positions into roles with greater job satisfaction. They are seen as a way to pave the way for Industry 5.0 by fostering human-robot collaboration and creating a more sustainable and resilient manufacturing industry [1][2][5].

2. Cobots: Technology and Features:

From the perspective of industrial change, especially Industry 5.0 [6,7], new ideas open for companies related to the use of collaborative robots. The use of such tools that are directly related to people in the factory is important for business needs and improvement strategies [8] (Figure 1)

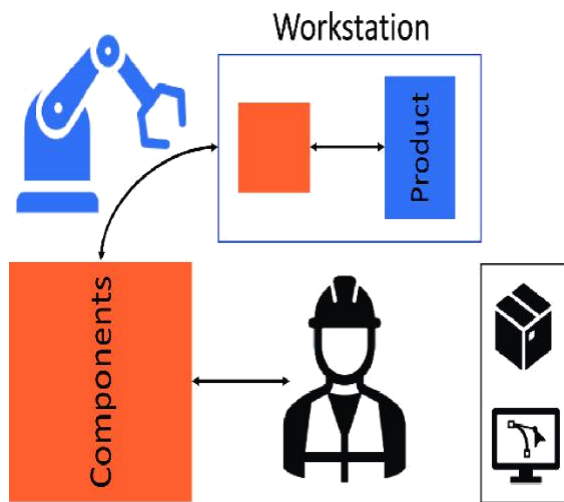


Figure 1: Human-Cobot Assembly System [9]

Robot systems that live and interact with their human counterparts in the same environment are called collaborative robots or cobs. are a new generation of robots that mostly have no body. The main difference between cobots and robots is the direct interaction with humans. By using these interactions, it helps organizations, especially in theory, to improve the strength and resilience of robots with implicit knowledge and quick decision-making ability. [10]

They are highly active in detecting human intervention and have many sensors. They support or take the place of employees in demanding or potentially fatal tasks. As a result, Human Robot Interaction is crucial to carefully completing several tasks. Cobot's cost-effectiveness, flexibility in deployment, and security features make it simple to automate a variety of tasks. Cobot is mostly used for picking and arranging, packaging, tasking, and quality inspection.

Collaborative robots were invented in 1996 by Northwestern University professors J. Edward Colgate and Michael Peshkin. A research grant from the General Motors Foundation is investigating how robots or robot-like devices can safely interact with humans, leading to a pair swap. It is quite symmetrical. Similar efforts by General Motors led to the development of the first industrial robots in the 1940s. [11]

The International Federation of Robotics (IFR) defines four levels of cooperation in collaborative robot technology: [12] [51]

1. Coexistence: a human and a robot work side by side, without walls, without a common workplace.
2. Continuous collaboration: humans and robots are active in a shared workspace, but they move continuously; they don't work on one piece at a time.
3. Collaboration: Robots and humans work together in the same field in both activities.[51]

2.1 Safety Features for Collaborative Robots

Cobot technology uses a security monitoring stand and performs most of its tasks autonomously. For example, if someone enters the workplace; Coordinate with the robotics department; The robot stopped moving. It doesn't quite fit. Work can continue when the space is free.

Although humans may not need to interact with large robotic technologies often, laser vision systems can be installed so that robots can access humans. Speed monitoring and various technologies allow assistive robots to slow down when people are near them and stop when they get close.

Limited power and energy capacity, cobot technology includes devices that calculate joint forces such as weight, resistance, and impact. Soft, sensitive "skin" and fast reaction times allow robots to work together to stop or reverse course in the face of unexpected forces.

3. Industrial 5.0 : The next phase of Manufacturing

Industry 5.0, also known as the "fifth industrial revolution," integrates sustainability as a fundamental principle, prioritizing responsible resource use, waste reduction, and environmental stewardship. Unlike its predecessors, Industry 5.0 places a strong emphasis on environmental protection and aims to develop a sustainable system powered by renewable energy.[12] This new approach not only enhances the efficiency of industrial production through human-machine collaboration but also contributes to the creation of a more sustainable and resilient industry. The European Union's report on Industry 5.0 highlights its potential to lead the way in building a more sustainable, resilient, and human-centric industry, aligning with the twin green and digital transitions essential for the EU's recovery and long-term prosperity. [13]

Industry 5.0, also known as the "fifth industrial revolution," is characterized by the integration of sustainability as a fundamental principle, prioritizing responsible resource use, waste reduction, and environmental stewardship. Unlike its predecessors, Industry 5.0 [14] places a strong emphasis on environmental protection and aims to develop a sustainable system powered by renewable energy. This new approach not only enhances the efficiency of industrial production through human-machine collaboration but also contributes to the creation of a more sustainable and resilient industry. The European Union's report on Industry 5.0 highlights its potential to lead the way in building a more sustainable, resilient, and human-centric industry, aligning with the twin green and digital transitions essential for the EU's recovery and long-term prosperity. [15] [16]

Industry 5.0, the fifth industrial revolution, is centred on the collaboration between humans and machines, emphasizing the use of collaborative robots to work alongside human workers. This collaboration aims to enhance safety, decision-making, and productivity. Additionally, Industry 5.0 involves a shift from fixed automation to flexible, reconfigurable production systems, enabled by technologies such as AI and advanced robotics. These systems allow for seamless modification of processes to accommodate changes in product customization or design iteration, enabling small-batch manufacturing and customization at scales typically reserved for mass production. [17]

Industry 5.0 places a significant focus on sustainability and circular economies, with the goal of optimizing manufacturing processes to conserve resources, minimize waste, reduce emissions, and lessen ecological impact. This shift involves moving towards recycled inputs in the materials supply chain and integrating production systems with self-maintaining capabilities using predictive diagnostics, 3D printing, and automated inspection. These principles are in line with the concept of resilience and self-healing, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and efficient industrial framework. The European Union's report on Industry 5.0 also underscores the importance of industry in achieving societal goals beyond economic growth, emphasizing the need for production to respect the planet's boundaries and prioritize the well-being of industrial workers. This aligns with the EU's efforts to accelerate the twin green and digital transitions, promoting a more sustainable and resilient industry.

4. Adoption of Cobots in Industrial 5.0

Industry 5.0 places a significant focus on the collaboration between humans and machines, emphasizing the use of collaborative robots to work alongside human workers. This collaboration aims to enhance safety, decision-making, and productivity. [18] Additionally, Industry 5.0 involves a shift from fixed automation to flexible, reconfigurable production systems, enabled by technologies such as AI and advanced robotics. These systems allow for seamless modification of processes to accommodate changes in product customization or design iteration, enabling small-batch manufacturing and customization at scales typically reserved for mass production. [19]

In contrast, Industry 5.0 focuses on highly skilled humans and robots to create unique things from smart machines to food trucks. In Industry 5.0, robots work together. Collaborative robots perform tasks with great additional stability, and trained humans perform the cognitive skills of an artist. Robots are expected to change the relationship between humans and machines in terms of production.

Industry 5.0, also known as the "fifth industrial revolution," emphasizes the collaboration between humans and machines, with a focus on human-centric solutions, sustainability, and resilience. [21] This approach aims to integrate advanced technologies, such as the Internet of Things (IoT), to enhance manufacturing processes and create more efficient, sustainable, and human-centered industrial systems. [22]

Industry 5.0 focuses on human-machine collaboration, enabling the use of collaborative robots to enhance safety, decision-making, and productivity. This collaboration aims to combine the strengths of both humans and machines, leading to more efficient and personalized production processes. [23]

The role of IoT in advancing Industry 5.0, describing it as a new paradigm that enhances advanced technologies and provides efficient solutions to data and information security problems. The integration of IoT in smart cities and smart homes enables better comfort, energy reduction, and improved communication among various systems and appliances. [24] [25] The European Union's report on Industry 5.0 recognizes the importance of this new approach in achieving societal goals beyond economic growth, emphasizing the need for production to respect the planet's boundaries and prioritize the well-being of industrial workers. This aligns with the EU's efforts to accelerate the twin green and digital transitions, promoting a more sustainable and resilient industry [26][27]

In summary, Industry 5.0 represents a significant shift towards a more sustainable, human-centered, and technologically advanced industrial framework, where the collaboration between humans and machines, along with the integration of IoT, plays a crucial role in achieving these objectives.

5. Case Studies - Real World Examples during the Transition to Industry 5.0

Advances in manufacturing technologies have led to the emergence of collaborative robots designed to work alongside humans in the workplace. Unlike traditional industrial robots that work autonomously in a controlled environment, cobots have advanced sensors, information systems, and safety features that allow interaction with human workers. As the manufacturing industry transitions to technology 5.0, characterized by increased connectivity, flexibility and flexibility, they play a key role in modernizing processes and incorporating workflows.

5.1 Automotive Industry - BMW

BMW, a leading automotive manufacturer, has integrated cobots into its production lines to streamline assembly processes and enhance operational efficiency. In BMW's factories, they work alongside human workers to perform repetitive tasks such as lifting heavy components, applying adhesives, and performing quality inspections. By automating tedious and physically demanding tasks, they enable workers to focus on more complex and value-added activities, leading to improved productivity and job satisfaction.

The use of cobots in manufacturing is a growing trend, with forecasts predicting a significant increase in their adoption globally. They are currently around 7% of all industrial robots both in China and globally, and this ratio is forecasted to increase to the mid-teens by 2025. They enable automation at the granular, single-worker level, allowing manufacturers to choose where and how much to automate. Additionally, the technology is typically smaller, lighter, cheaper, and more flexible than traditional robots, making it one of the fastest-growing areas in manufacturing machinery. [28]

5.2 Electronics Manufacturing - Flex Ltd.

Flex Ltd., a global electronics manufacturing services company, has implemented cobots in its production facilities to optimize assembly processes and ensure product quality. They are used to handle delicate electronic components, perform soldering tasks, and assist in the testing and inspection of circuit boards. By deploying them alongside human operators, Flex has improved throughput, reduced cycle times, and minimized errors, thereby enhancing overall manufacturing efficiency and responsiveness to customer demands. [29]

5.3 Food and Beverage Industry - Kraft Heinz

Kraft Heinz, a global food and beverage company, has integrated collaborative robot (cobot) technology to enhance the efficiency of its packaging and palletizing processes in manufacturing facilities. Cobot systems are utilized to accurately handle and pack a range of food items, including canned products, sauces, and snacks. By automating repetitive duties and minimizing manual intervention, cobots support Kraft Heinz in boosting production capacity, maintaining product uniformity, and advancing occupational safety for its workforce. [30][31]

Cobots, or collaborative robots, are a major advancement in industrial automation and human-robot cooperation when they are incorporated into production processes. The practical advantages of deploying cobots are illustrated by real-world instances from businesses in a variety of industries. These advantages include higher worker safety, better product quality, and increased productivity. It is anticipated that the broad use of cobot technology would spur innovation, agility, and competitiveness in the global marketplace as the industrial sector moves closer to Industry 5.0.

6. The Impact of Cobot Adoption on Industrial Operations, Workforce Dynamics, and Skill Requirements

The advent of cobots represents a paradigm shift in industrial automation, enabling human-robot collaboration in manufacturing environments. As the use of cobots increases, it is important to evaluate their implications for industrial operations, workforce dynamics and skill requirements. This article explores the potential benefits and challenges associated with cobot integration, focusing on addressing job loss issues and facilitating worker retraining initiatives. [32]

6.1 Impact of Cobot Adoption on Industrial Operations

The use of cobots in industrial settings is expected to increase productivity, flexibility, and operational efficiency. They can expedite cycle times, enhance product quality, and optimize manufacturing processes by automating repetitive and physically taxing tasks. They can also work in close proximity to human workers, allowing for smooth task distribution and reconfiguration as well as collaborative processes. Consequently, businesses can get enhanced flexibility and responsiveness to market requirements, thereby augmenting their competitiveness in the worldwide marketplace. [33]

6.2 Workforce Dynamics and Skill Requirements

The dynamics of the workforce have shifted due to the incorporation of cobots, requiring a change in roles, responsibilities, and skill sets. They increase worker capacity and safety in the workplace, but they can also cause anxiety about job loss and the replacement of traditional manufacturing tasks. In order to meet this problem, companies need to give top priority to workforce development programs that retrain and upskill employees for the role of cobot technology and provide them with assistance. [34] This entails learning how to program, maintain, and operate in addition to honing critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, which are crucial for overseeing intricate industrial procedures. [35]

6.3 Addressing Concerns and Facilitating Reskilling

Proactive steps should be made to support impacted workers through education and retraining programs in order to allay worries about job loss. [36] By providing educational opportunities, vocational training programs, and certification programs specifically designed for new jobs in the era of automation, governments, industry associations, and educational institutions play a crucial role in facilitating the transition to the labor market. Moreover, cultivating a culture of perpetual education and ongoing professional growth can help staff members adjust to evolving technological developments and maintain their competitiveness in the labor market. [37]

Collaborative robots, or cobots, are going to change production and assembly processes in industrial environments. These cutting-edge robotic systems have numerous advantages and are intended to coexist with human workers. They can manage dangerous, repetitive, or precision-based jobs, increasing efficiency and productivity [38]. They are also affordable and space-efficient, which enables small and medium-sized businesses to use them. They may also be quickly relocated to accommodate changing production needs and are simple to program. Cobot adoption raises questions regarding job displacement and the need for labor reskilling notwithstanding these benefits. For organizations to properly utilize cobot technology for sustainable growth and innovation in the digital era, they need to take a proactive approach to these issues and make investments in the development of human capital. [39]

7. Emerging Trends in Cobot Technology and Its Role in the Future of Manufacturing: Ethical and Societal Considerations

The incorporation of collaborative robots, into the manufacturing process has transformed conventional industrial procedures and made it possible for humans and machines to work together seamlessly. Cobot technology is still developing, so it's important to keep an eye out for new developments and consider how they

can affect manufacturing in the future. This study examines current developments in cobot technology, talks about possible ramifications, and tackles social and ethical issues related to the widespread use of cobots.

7.1 Emerging Trends in Cobot Technology

7.1.1 Artificial Intelligence Integration

AI algorithms are being incorporated into cobots more frequently in order to enhance their capacity for decision-making and adaptability in dynamic manufacturing contexts. Cobots with AI capabilities can enhance task performance, evaluate data in real time, and pick up autonomous learning from human interactions. They can now complete complicated jobs more accurately and efficiently because of this trend toward AI integration, which opens the door for more intelligent and autonomous production systems. [40]

7.1.2 Sensor Fusion Perception

To enhance perception and situational awareness, advanced sensor technologies such as vision systems, touch sensors, and proximity detectors are being included into cobots. They can precisely sense and interact with their surroundings through sensor fusion techniques, making human-robot cooperation safer and more natural. Cobots' adaptability is increased by this trend toward sensor integration, which enables them to carry out a variety of activities in various industrial settings. [41]

7.1.3 Adaptive Control Systems

Cobots with adaptive control systems can dynamically modify their behavior and performance in response to shifting task requirements and environmental changes. They can improve their efficiency, dependability, and scalability in real time by integrating feedback mechanisms and learning algorithms. They can function more independently and react to production-process risks more effectively thanks to the move toward adaptive control systems. [42]

7.2 Anticipated Role of Cobots in the Future of Manufacturing

Cobots have the potential to revolutionize production and boost productivity, creativity, and competitiveness. They will become more and more integrated into a variety of industrial sectors, including as logistics, electronics, healthcare, and the automotive industry, as their technology advances. They will enhance product quality, expedite manufacturing, and enable producers to quickly adjust to changing market demands. Additionally, by automating monotonous jobs, lessening ergonomic strains, and fostering a safer and more cooperative work atmosphere, cobots will empower human workers. [43]

Collaborative robots have a lot of promise to promote sustainability, efficiency, and creativity in the industrial industry. The manufacturing industry is changing because of new developments in cobot technology, such as sensor fusion, AI integration, and adaptive control systems, which make production processes more flexible and intelligent. Nonetheless, in order to guarantee the ethical and sustainable use of them in manufacturing settings, it is crucial to thoroughly address ethical and sociological issues. Stakeholders may promote a more equitable and moral manufacturing future while also realizing the full potential of cobot technology by proactively addressing these issues. [44]

7.3 Social and Ethical Considerations:

As cobots become more common in industries, it is important to consider the ethical, legal, and social issues that may arise from the widespread use of robots. Some important concerns include:

7.3.1 Job displacement and unemployment: One of the biggest issues surrounding robots is the potential for job displacement and unemployment, as human workers are replaced or downsized due to automation. In order to do this, we must focus on improving and developing programs that help workers find work. [45]

7.3.2 Income inequality: If benefits are not shared equitably, the use of cobots and automation technologies can exacerbate income inequality. Economists and industrial planners work together to ensure that the economic interests of consumers are widely shared, and that certain groups or industries do not benefit disproportionately. [46]

7.3.3 Worker safety: Although cobots are designed to be inherently safe, accidents can still occur in human-robot collaborative environments. Establishing clear standards, guidelines and safety protocols for the use of robots and developing advanced safety features are essential to ensure worker safety. [47]

7.4.4 Data privacy and security: Cobots are often relied upon to collect and process data, which can raise concerns about data privacy and security. It is important to have strong data protection policies and practices in place to protect sensitive data and protect against cyber security threats.

7.4.5 Legal liability: Determining legal liability for damages caused by cobots can be complicated because it is unclear whether liability lies with the manufacturer, operator, or user of the cobot. To address liability issues and promote accountability, the creation of clear legal rules and guidelines for the use of cobots is necessary.

7.4.6 Bias and fairness: AI and machine learning algorithms can be unintentionally biased. This leads to unfair or discriminatory results. The algorithms are transparent; Verifiability is essential to address biases that may legitimately arise and promote fair outcomes.

7.4.7 Making Ethical Decisions: As cobots become more autonomous and capable of making decisions, there may be concerns about the ethical implications of their actions, especially in situations where ethical judgments are required. [48]

8. Conclusion

Collaborative robots are being incorporated into manufacturing processes. This is a revolutionary development in industrial automation and human-robot collaboration, especially in the context of Industry 5.0. In this work, we examined a number of aspects related to the adoption of cobots, such as new developments in cobot technology and its projected role in future production, as well as ethical and social issues.

Collaborative robots are a major step toward Industry 5.0, which is defined by enhanced flexibility, connection, and human-robot collaboration. Their incorporation into production processes. Manufacturing is changing as a result of new developments in cobot technology, including as sensor fusion, artificial intelligence (AI) integration, and adaptive control systems.

Cobots can now assess data in real time and adjust to changing production conditions thanks to artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms that improve their decision-making abilities [49]. More secure human-robot cooperation is made possible by cobots' accurate perception and interaction with their environment thanks to advanced sensor technologies including vision systems and touch sensors [50]. Moreover, adaptive control methods enable cobots to optimize efficiency and performance by constantly modifying their behavior in response to changing job requirements [51].

Ethical and social issues need to be taken into account as cobots are included into production processes more and more in order to guarantee their responsible adoption. The necessity of reskilling the workforce and worries about job displacement highlight the significance of comprehensive training and education programs [52]. To reduce possible risks and protect human health in cobot-enabled environments, safety measures, risk assessment techniques, and ethical frameworks for data privacy are crucial [53] [54].

In conclusion, cobots have a lot of promise to improve manufacturing productivity and competitiveness, but their social and ethical ramifications need to be carefully evaluated. Stakeholders may simultaneously respect ethical norms and societal values and leverage the revolutionary power of cobot technology by encouraging responsible deployment and proactive risk management techniques.[55].

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